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GEPLACEA MEETING IN MEXICO CITY TO DISCUSS SUGAR PRICES

FL142251Y Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish to ANSA Buenos Aires 2134 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Mexico City, 14 Feb (ANSA-INFORMEX)--Delegates to the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries [GEPLACEA] Eighth Plenary Meeting that opened yesterday in this capital will advocate that the international price of this raw material be raised from 9 to 11 cents so that it will be able to fluctuate up to 21 cents per pound.

More than 100 representatives of the sugar industry are attending the event from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

On the first day, the major speech was given by the Cuban Foreign Trade Vice Minister Ricardo Cabrizas, who stated that the current international sugar convention does not constitute a struggle between the underdeveloped and the developed countries, rather it seeks to combine exporter and importer interests to end up with a truly regulated market.

In another area, Cuban and Brazilian delegates stated that they would struggle to abolish the tariff restrictions imposed by the importers because by reducing purchases the price of sugar on the world market is affected.

Details of Cabrizas Speech

PA141258Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 13 Feb (AFP)--Cuban Foreign Trade Deputy Minister Ricardo Cabrizas said here today that the sugar tariff restrictions "worry exporters very much because the restrictions limit their aspirations." To some extent, these restrictions must negatively affect the international market, he added.

It is for this reason that several delegations to this meeting of the Economic Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA) have voiced their concern, the Cuban official stressed.

Cabrizas held a short news conference after the inaugural session of GEPLACEA's eighth meeting. This inaugural session was attended by the delegates of 21 sugar-producing countries and of the Philippines, which is participating as an observer. The meetings are scheduled to last until 17 February.

In conclusion, Cabrizas recalled that it is the sugar importing countries which have "to study, analyze and rectify where necessary" the agreement signed at the 1977 Geneva conference. This agreement went into effect on 1 January this year.

Concern Over U.S. Tariff

FL101654Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The group of Latin American and Caribbean sugar exporting countries, GEPLACEA, is reported to be concerned about the new United States levy on sugar.

The United States is now charging a levy of 2.7 cents a pound on sugar imports on top of normal import duties of 2.8 cents a pound, bringing sugar prices up to 16 cents a pound. Officials said that because the United States had bought large stocks of sugar late last year they were not interested in buying at the moment and thatthat depressed the market. This situation is expected to last into the second quarter of this year. However, GEPLACEA sources have expressed optimism that as the effect of the new international sugar agreement was felt on the market, the United States will be able to reduce the levy. The 21 member countries of GEPLACEA will be meeting in Mexico next week for a plenary session.

PRICE SETS UP CARICOM FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE

FL150145Y Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The highest-level conference ever to be held in Belize is to be hosted by the honorable premier next week in Belmopan. Foreign ministers of the Caribbean community--CARICOM--will be here for 2 days of discussions on the political future of Belize. The conference has been called by the premier of Belize for a briefing on the latest developments in the Anglo-Guatemalan dispute. The conference was announced by the honorable premier at the public meeting in Belmopan last night. CARICOM nations have been in the forefront of the support Belize has gained in regional and international forums for independence and territorial integrity.

ANDEAN PACT OPTIMISTIC ON ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

PY110153Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] The members of the Cartagena Accord Board have told President Francisco Moralez Bermudez that the Andean group is experiencing a boom with excellent prospects for successfully carrying out the integration of these countries. Jesus Alberto Fernandez, president of the board, said that an indication of this possibility is the final agreement on the sectorial program for industrial development.

A group of experts have been meeting to study one of the last proposals for the metalworking program, which includes the Chilean withdrawal and the inclusion of Venezuela. As will be recalled, this program was approved before the Chilean withdrawal.

Jesus Alberto Fernandez told Morales Bermudez that the Petrochemical Committee will meet next week to update its program. Fernandez told the president: Just as we have come through difficult times, now that we are experiencing a boom with excellent possibilities, we come to you to share this pleasant moment. Fernandez was accompanied by (Rafael Garcia Velasco) and Luis Barandiaran Pagador, who is the current board coordinator.

BRIEFS

NEW UN ENVOYS--United Nations, 2 Feb (INFORMEX)--Mexico and the Dominican Republic today accredited new permanent representatives to the United Nations. Mexican Ambassador Francisco Cuevas Cancino, who replaces Roberto de Rosenzweig Diaz, had previously served at the United Nations from 1965 to 1970. Dominican Casimiro Castro is a member of the Dominican Revolutionary Party leadership, the principal political opposition party of the Dominican Republic. His predecessor, Alfonso Moreno Martinez, is a leader of the Christian Democratic Party, also in the opposition. [Text] [Mexico City INFORMEX in Spanish 0230 GMT 3 Feb 78 FL]

LAMI DOZO BRIEFS JUNTA ON MEETING WITH PINOCHET

PY141420Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] The government military junta listened for 2 hours [yesterday] to Gen Basilio Lami Dozo's report. As has already been reported, Lami Dozo met (?on 12 February) with President Pinochet Ugarte in the Chilean city of Punta Arenas. This meeting was aimed at finishing the details for the next Videla-Pinochet meeting and at establishing the basis for the negotiations which must settle the border disagreements in the southern area of the continent.

In this regard, a Chilean military mission will arrive in Buenos Aires tomorrow, according to a report in Santiago, Chile, in order to reach agreement with a similar Argentine mission about the composition of the final act which the two presidents must sign.

The secretaries general of the three forces [Argentine], together with the Chilean military mission, will be in charge of preparing the final act which will rpovide for the establishment of two commissions which must propose, one in 30 days and the other in 210 days, an appropriate solution to the border issue. Once this document is prepared it will be submitted for the consideration of the respective governments--probably on 17 February--and it is believed that if no problems arise, Presidents Jorge Rafael Videla and Augusto Pinochet will meet on 19 February.

If this summit meeting is set for 19 February, it will coincide with the 79th anniversary of the (?renowned) embrace of the [words indistinct] when Presidents Julio Argentino Roca and Federico Errazuriz met to seek a solution to the tense situation created [words indistinct] with Chile.

General Lami Dozo, special Argentine military junta envoy to Chile, who met with President Pinochet in Punta Arenas for 2 hours and 40 minutes, carried out a successful mission, thus [words indistinct] the negotiations for the next summit meeting.

DETAILS REPORTED ON CHILEAN MILITARY DELEGATION

PY141715Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1258 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb--The Chilean military delegation which will arrive in Buenos Aires today to meet with a similar Argentine delegation carries precise, although not inflexible, instructions. Information received here has it that the delegation is headed by Gen Agustin Davila, dean and delegate of the University of Chile, and that it is composed of the following members: Air Force Gen Nicanor Diaz Estrada, chief of staff for national defense; Rear Adm Carlos le Mayn, chief of the navy joint staff; Cmdr Ernesto Videla, Foreign Ministry planning chief; and Helmut Brunner, legal adviser.

The only change in the Chilean delegation which held the first meeting with the Argentine delegation is the replacement of Gen Rodolfo Martinez, Air Force 3d Wing commander in Punta Arenas, by General Diaz Estrada. The reason for this change is to spare General Martinez the long trips from Punta Arenas required to attend this series of meetings, taking time away from his obligations. Since the Chilean delegation will bring a precise agenda, the talks should not last more than 24 hours and the delegation should be on its way back to Santiago later today to report to President Pinochet immediately upon its arrival.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR LIMA TALKS ON MALVINAS

FY142021Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1850 GMT 14 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb--An Argentine delegation left for Lima, Peru, this morning to carry out negotiations with UK representatives regarding sovereignty and economic cooperation of the Malvinas Islands and other islands in the southwest Atlantic.

The delegation is headed by Ambassador Raul Medina Munoz, director of the Ministry of Foreign Relations Antarctic and Malvinas Department; and made up by Minister Juan Carlos Vignaud and Susana Ruiz Cerruitti from the legal counsel office; Guillermo Lesta from the Energy Secretariat; Capt Federico Arga (ret) from the Maritime Interest Secretariat; and Fernando Fernandez Escalante and Alberto Teson as advisers.

The new round of negotiations will begin tomorrow in the Argentine Embassy in Lima and will last 4 days. These negotiations are the result of the meetings held in New York from 13 through 15 December 1977, during which Argentina and the United Kingdom agreed to hold these meetings.

Foreign Ministry sources believe that the negotiations will be hard and long and will probably be held in several sessions, because the positions of the two parties must be brought closer.

One of the commissions which will begin meeting tomorrow will study political relations, which will include questions of sovereignty with regard to the Malvinas, Sandwich and South Georgia Islands. Another commission will study Argentine-UK economic cooperation in those territories and in the southeast Atlantic in general.

The Foreign Ministry indicated that during the meetings held in New York last December, the representatives of the two countries tried to bring their positions closer and that the groups in Lima will work on that basis. Prior to this meeting, Argentine and UK officials also met in March and July 1977 in Buenos Aires and Rome respectively.

MONTES VOICES SUPPORT FOR URUGUAY ON OAS REJECTION

FY141344Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1121 GMT 14 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb--Vice Adm Oscar Montes, the Argentine foreign minister, reaffirmed his country's support for the rejected Uruguayan offer to be the host of a continental meeting, according to reports disclosed here today.

In a note addressed to his Uruguayan colleague, Alejandro Rovira, Montes said that the Argentine delegation to the Organization of American States (OAS) supported the Uruguayan proposal offering Montevideo as the site for the eighth ordinary session of the organization's General Assembly. The Uruguayan offer was rejected and the decision was interpreted as linked to the accusation of human rights violations issued against the Uruguayan Government.

The Argentine foreign minister--whose country was also accused of such violations--said that Argentine support was given with the understanding that Uruguay has the technical and practical capability necessary to host the OAS event. He concluded by saying that if it were held in Montevideo, the meeting "would be carried off with great efficiency, and would allow for a broad discussion of all the issues concerning the inter-American situation."

FOUR PRISONERS PAROLED, REPORTEDLY VANISH

PY131919Y Buenos Aires HERALD in English 13 Feb 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Gonzalo Abel Carranza, an inmate of correction unit (prison) nine in La Plata, vanished after being released on parole at 12:10 am on the third of this month, according to his mother, Sara Garcia Muniz de Carranza. Mrs Carranza and her son's father-in-law, Jorge Aurelio Mazza, have sent letters to the Federal Court of Criminal Appeals, which ordered the release on parole, and to Interior Minister General Albano Harguindeguy, reporting the young man's disappearance and asking for their help in locating him.

The missing man was arrested three years ago, placed at the disposal of the executive and tried and convicted of having had in his possession multiple copies of banned publications. He was acquitted of all other charges after it was confirmed that he had not had arms in his possession and had not participated in any violent or illegal action.

In December 1976, Carranza was taken off the list of those held at the disposal of the executive and put under the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts. Last October his case was reviewed by the Federal Court of Criminal Appeals. In view of the fact that Carranza had been a civil servant (employed by the Justice Department) and had no previous criminal record, the court ordered his five-year sentence reduced to three and a half years. At the same [time] he was stripped of all civil rights for life.

With his sentence ending next May 8, Carranza filed for parole, and last January 31 the appeals court ordered his release. Mrs Carranza said she waited three days and then went to the prison where her son was being held. She was told that her son had been released that same morning at 12:10 along with three other inmates. Mrs Carranza says that she subsequently learned that the other three men--allegedly identified as Segalli, Dominguez and Gallardo--also supposedly disappeared after leaving the prison.

Mrs Carranza, who was born in Spain, says that she is now completely alone. Her husband deserted her years ago, her only daughter lives in Europe and her other son died of leukemia 15 months ago.

NON-CATHOLIC FAITHS FACE STATE REGULATION

PY141400Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2045 GMT 13 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 13 Feb--The Ministry of Foreign Relations and Worship has created the National Worship Registry, through which the religious organizations which carry out activities within national territory, and which do not belong to the Catholic Church, must be recognized and registered.

The national executive branch, according to Law No 21,745 released today in the Government House, will establish the conditions and requirements which must be fulfilled to obtain the recognition and registration in the National Worship Registry. This recognition and registration must be fulfilled before the church begins any activity. It will regulate the activities of all religious organizations which are not included in the Roman Apostolic Catholic Church, and will also grant or remove the legal status or, when the case calls for it, the establishment and existence of the association as a legal entity.

The religious organizations included in this measure which are already registered must register again within 50 days after the effectiveness of the bylaws of the measure; otherwise, they will be considered as not registered.

According to the provisions of the new law, the requested registration will be rejected--or canceled if it had already been granted--if it is found that the principles or purposes which originated the constitution of the association or the activity harm public order, national security, morals and ethics; or, if the exercise of their activities does not meet the principles or purposes which determined its recognition or registration; or if it harms other religious organizations.

This same measure will be applied when the provisions of the present law or its bylaws are not fulfilled. These cases will be subject to a prohibition to function in the national territory and/or a discontinuance of their legal status or their character as a legal entity.

Article 5 states that the new law is one related to public order and the national executive branch will prepare its bylaws within 60 days after the law is published.

The preamble of the law says that the purpose of the plan to create the National Worship Registry is that of filling a legislative vacuum which has led different state organizations to make decisions, sometimes contradictory, on identical problems concerning non-Catholic cults, apart from establishing an effective control over such cults by national officials.

It is added that the purpose of the plan is that of insuring national jurisdiction and the capacity to decide in all problems related to religious institutions not belonging to the Catholic Church.

It is said that its importance is brought out by the fact that there are over 1,600 recognized institutions of this nature in the country and that their control is a duty which the national state cannot delegate.

MARTINEZ DE HOZ RETURNS FROM SOUTH AFRICA

PY141755Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1620 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 14 Feb--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz arrived here from South Africa on KLM flight number 793 at 1305.

The minister, who was accompanied by his son, did not make any statements upon his arrival at Ezeiza International Airport. He was received by Col Ataliva Fernandez, the airport chief and members of the Economy Ministry.

4.4 PERCENT GDP GROWTH RECORDED IN 1977

PY110107Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2230 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Feb--Guillermo Walter Klein, the economic programming and coordination secretary, today stated during a press conference that the gross domestic product grew by 4.4 percent during 1977. The efforts of Argentines have reversed 2 years of negative results. This figure surpasses estimates at the beginning of the year. This is the highest absolute value reached during the decade, along with the one achieved in 1974.

Gross fixed investments reached the exceptionally high growth rate of 20.4 percent. This is the greatest increase experienced since 1968, when this statistic began to be recorded.

The machinery and equipment sector registered an increase of 23.9 percent--a figure which was considered exceptional by Klein.

The gross industrial product grew 3.8 percent. Construction increased 13.3 percent, while consumption decreased 4 percent.

Exports during 1977 reached the record figure of $5.6 billion. Imports totaled $3.9 billion. The commercial balance surplus reached $1.7 billion.

Klein also said that on 31 December, Central Bank reserves reached $4 billion; $3.3 billion of this figure in free liquidity.

BRIEFS

UN TECHNICAL COOPERATION CONFERENCE--Brig General Jorge Pozzo has been appointed president of the national commission for the UN conference on technical cooperation among developing countries. The commission must take the steps needed to organize the conference, which will take place in Buenos Aires from 30 August to 13 September 1978. [Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p 7 PY]

LABOR FEDERATION INTERVENTOR--Labor Minister Gen Horacio Tomas Liendo has named Capt Cesar Augusto Alejandro Bruni interventor in the Argentine Light and Power Workers Federation. He is replacing Capt Silvano Graciano Bolla. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2000 GMT 8 Feb 78 PY]

PERSONS ARRESTED, RELEASED--Buenos Aires, 10 Feb--The Interior Ministry reported that 26 persons have been arrested and placed at the disposal of the executive branch, that one person was released and that two others were authorized to leave the country. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

SUGAR CANE PRODUCTION--An Agriculture and Livestock Secretariat report indicates that up to 9 January 1978 the 1977 sugar cane harvest will amount to approximately 16 million tons. Tucuman Province, which produces 57.5 percent of the crop, increased its production by 5.2 percent, followed by Jujuy Province with a (?29.5) percent increase, Salta Province by 30.2 percent and Santa Fe Province by 6.7 percent. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 10 Feb 78 PY]

POLITICIANS PESSIMISTIC ON SEA OUTLET TALKS

PY142041Y La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 9 Feb 78 pp 1, 17 PY

[Excerpts] Three years after the reestablishment of relations with Chile, which was made official at the meeting held between Presidents Pinochet and Banzer--better known as the "embrace at Charana"--at this border town, the opinion of some political parties and persons who have been consulted is pessimism on the negative results and concerning the future of negotiations on recovering a sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean.

Benjamin Miguel Harb, president of the Christian Democratic Party, said that is has been confirmed that the reestablishment of relations with Chile "has not yielded any benefit for the country in 3 years, but has broken a line of international policy which involved the just accusation that Chile had usurped the Lauca River." He pointed out that after the embrace at Charana this unjust seizure was neglected by the people.

He said that negotiations by General Banzer's government to recover a port on the Pacific "were totally erroneous and against all tradition of Bolivian international policy." He said that they were badly conducted because an error was committed in the beginning. Therefore, a favorable solution for Bolivia must be sought. "It is necessary to propose a new basis to begin new negotiations, and to achieve this requires new political conditions in the country, as a moral basis for negotiations."

Humberto Siles, secretary general of the Bolivian Socialist Falange, asserted that the negotiations have been badly conducted, because Chile was not trustworthy. He emphasized the need for new ideas and pointed out Bolivia's right to a maritime border.

He indicated, however, that there is a positive factor within those negotiations which deserves mentioning: the fact that a continental awareness was created and that the Bolivian landlocked problem could be taken to the highest international court. He added that the country has never before had more favorable chances of returning to the sea.

Leonidas Sanchez Arana, leader of the National Revolutionary Movement, said his party feels these negotiations have been a total failure. He said that "what the country cherishes as most sacred cannot be changed into simple merchandise which can be ruled by supply and demand."

He said that in view of the results, there is no alternative but to freeze relations with Chile, and that negotiations must definitely be suspended, since that is most advantageous to the high interests of the country. He said that only a constitutional government will be able to set the new basis for negotiations within the framework of a new plan.

Jaime Paz, leader of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR], stated that "3 years after the embrace at Charana and somewhat separated from the domestic political context, we can say that the time has proven that what the MIR said on that occasion was right. It was an embrace which belied the country's interests, its history, its people and its unyielding national demands."

He added: "The embrace at Charana is a symbol of an elitist policy which demoralizes and confuses the Bolivian people. The conditions for recovery of our sea will only be guaranteed by the active and organized presence of the majority in national activities."

The reestablishment of relations with Chile on 9 February 1975, according to Eduardo Arze Quiroga, president of the Institute for Geopolitical Studies, was a victory which that country had "anxiously and unsuccessfully" sought for 12 years.

He said that although Chile had unsolved border problems in the south with Argentina in the Beagle Channel and Tierra del Fuego, and in the north was encouraging friendship with Peru and Ecuador, the key to its policy was not in those countries but in Bolivia.

Former Foreign Minister Arze Quiroga said that the card that Chile played in Charana was to its own exclusive advantage--especially to get rid of arid and useless territory at the northern end of its border, and place Bolivia as an anvil to be hammered by both Chileans and Peruvians.

Foreign Ministry Defends Negotiations

PY150200Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Foreign Ministry has tried to justify the negotiations carried out by the government with regard to the maritime problem. The Foreign Ministry indicated that the difficulties encountered are not the responsibility of our country. This statement was issued on the 99th anniversary of the Chilean invasion of Bolivian territory.

Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola Valda released an extensive document which explained the government's position with regard to the current status of the negotiations with Chile. The Foreign Ministry recognized that mistakes were made, but then asked: What was the wrongdoing? [Words indistinct] which could be considered an answer to the strong criticism by different media of the negotiations, which were labeled as a total failure.

The Foreign Ministry said that the errors cannot be attributed to lack of diplomatic ability, naivete or lack of civic morality by the officials who at one time or another carried out their duties. The document, after summarizing the intense international campaign by General Banzer's government throughout Latin America, said that the Chilean Government--which realized that the situation was not improving, that is, that it had come to a halt--did not do what Bolivia hoped for an begin new negotiations aimed at clarifying the situation. This situation concerns Chilean consultation with Peru on approval to grant Bolivia an outlet to the sea in territory which was at one time Peruvian.

FINANCE MINISTER REPORTS ON WASHINGTON TALKS

PY150305Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] Finance Minister David Blanco said today that this is not the right time to change the rate of exchange of the Bolivian peso. Blanco returned from Washington, where he met with representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the IDB. He said that the country's financial conditions are excellent and that a change in the country's current wage plan would cause a slow down in the current growth. He said that because of this there is need to exercise greater control over public expenditures, particularly on the decentralized government enterprises.

He explained, however, that due to the nature of the internal market and the salary level, salary increases will necessarily be approved for teachers, doctors and nurses, including pensions for war veterans, and that studies are being carried out for this purpose.

Blanco said that requests will naturally be considered according to the country's financial possibilities, without affecting the budget structure and in strict accordance with the prices of the consumer market.

Dyring his 48-hour stay in Washington, Blanco met with executives of the World Bank to continue preparations for the second consultative congress in Bolivia on 3 and 4 April 1978. The international congress will be attended by executives of the IDB, the IBRD, the Andean Development Corporation and the International Monetary Fund. Blanco said that the International Commercial Bank has reported that it will not attend.

The meetings will be held on the basis of projects submitted by officials of the Ministries of Finance and Planning and Coordination, which include 100 development projects with an investment of $3.5 billion in a 5-year plan.

Blanco said that he met with Antonio Ortiz Mena, president of the IDB, and that Mena expressed satisfaction with the economic, political and social programs being applied by the Bolivian Government. He said that the IDB respects Bolivia's international image and that it is necessary to keep that image. In conclusion, Blanco denied a report released by the international press that renegotiation of the Bolivian foreign debt would demand time and permanent contacts, not in Washington but in the Paris group.

FSB BREAKS OFF COALITION TALKS WITH PEREDA

PY141954Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1810 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb--Gen Juan Pereda, government candidate in the coming presidential elections in Bolivia, has suffered what observers called his first election defeat. With 5 months to go to the elections, he has lost the support of the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB]. The FSB and Pereda had been holding talks on forming a common election front, but General Pereda thought the demands of the FSB leaders were "excessive."

The FSB demanded 45 percent participation in the government, congress and municipalities. Pereda offered 30 percent.

The government candidate was surprised at the FSB refusal to support him. The news has given rise to renewed uncertainty regarding Pereda's prospects in the election, since he only has the support of small parties such as the Social Christian Party [PSC] and splinter sectors of the FSB and the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR].

Pereda's campaign leaders believe that the candidate's actions should be directed toward the independent sectors in the cities and the peasant class. It is recognized by all political sectors that the peasant vote is decisive in an election, 65 percent of Bolivians being peasants. At the same time as the FSB leaders announced their refusal to form an alliance with the government sector in the coming 9 July elections, they confirmed their desire for unity with the MNR.

They also requested that the armed forces guarantee fair play in the coming elections and hand over power to the winning political force.

The FSB was the first party to request registration with the Electoral Court. Observers pointed out, however, that the FSB is placed in a delicate position. As long as the FSB supported Pereda, it had a good chance of winning. But now it is requesting support from the MNR to form an electoral coalition, and in La Paz the MNR-FSB pact is believed to be uncertain. In any case, the MNR is split into several factions.

All MNR members agreed that Victor Paz Estenssoro and Hernan Siles Zuazo are the leaders of the party, and the signing of an agreement between the two leaders, who are also politically in disagreement, would leave the FSB completely alone, it is added here.

Well-informed circles believe that the FSB will have a small political following if it goes to the ballot boxes without the support of other parties and isolated from the government candidate. It is firmly believed that many independent voters, who would have supported FSB candidates, will prefer to support General Pereda.

SOCIALIST FALANGE ISSUES STATEMENT ON UPCOMING ELECTIONS

PA131200Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1603 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] La Paz, 12 Feb (AFP)--The Bolivian Socialist Falange (FSB) today announced here that the party believes power should be turned over to whichever political force wins the 9 July general elections, regardless of its coloration.

FSB leader Mario Gutierrez released a statement to the local press and asked the armed forces to return to their barracks after the next elections, leaving the direct conduct of the state to the civilian politicians. Gutierrez said he is in favor of an alliance between his party and the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement.

MINERS CHARGE CONTINUED OFFICIAL HARASSMENT

PY141710Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1448 GMT 14 Feb 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 14 Feb--Miner leaders here today charged that "the military and the coordinators continue to hamper free labor union activities in the mining centers." Gilberto Bernal, of the Mineworkers Federation of Bolivia [FSTMB], added that the leaders of the sector are coming up against difficulties in the reorganization of the unions, because of the presence of troops in the mining districts. Bernal added: "The military occupation of the miners' radio station 21 de Diciembre in Catavi is insulting. That occupation is a way of prohibiting the workers from expressing themselves." Catavi lies in the Siglo Veinte District, 308 km south of La Paz.

The mineworkers leader, who spoke on behalf of the FSTMB, also stated that the troops have occupied a school in Catavi. Bernal also made charges of irregularities in labor-employer relations in the state mining enterprise.

ITAMARATY SPECULATES ON MEANING OF NOGUES VISIT

FY150150Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DE BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Feb 78 p 17 FY

[Excerpts] Brasilia--Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues will arrive today in Brasilia after having surprised the Brazilian Foreign Ministry with his unexpected request for a meeting--a request he made before the Paraguayan election--"for consultations." Although completely unaware of the real motives behind Nogues' visit, Itamaraty staged a ceremonial exchange of notes defining both Brazilian and Paraguayan sovereignty over 67 islands located on the Paraguayan River to officially justify Nogues presence in Brasilia.

Foreign Minister Azeredo's leading advisers for River Plate Basin affairs unsuccessfully attempted yesterday afternoon to give an explanation for Nogues visit. Yet the one thing they are certain about is that his visit is related to developments regarding the Argentine and Paraguayan positions on reconciling the Corpus and Itaipu hydroelectric projects, which will be discussed early next month in Asuncion by the three countries.

Surprised by the Paraguayan move--since after the cycle question was unilaterally decided, the two countries have remained distant--Itamaraty has admitted with concern that the Nogues visit could be another pendular move made by Paraguay on the eve of the Asuncion tripartite talks.

In their speculation, in which they include every possible move, the Brazilian diplomats are especially considering the following: First, Nogues' visit may be related to a demand by Paraguay on interconnecting the Itaipu Reservoir with the Monday, Acaray and Nacunday rivers in exchange for lowering the height of Corpus, the hydroelectric plant it intends to build jointly with Argentina. As is known, if this height is above what Brazil considers reasonable, it will clearly harm Itaipu's capacity to generate power.

Another theory is that Nogues may be coming to demand the construction by Brazil of the Monday hydroelectric plant, or simply to offer lowering the height of Corpus in exchange for some concessions. A last theory--the least possible--is that the Paraguayan move is merely aimed at adopting a common strategy with regard to Argentina in the next tripartite talks.

In addition to the surprise caused by Nogues' request for a meeting, another fact was behind the hectic movement which took place yesterday among Itamaraty's specialists and in Foreign Minister Azeredo's cabinet, that is, the report that Argentina will adopt a rigid position in the Asuncion talks.

It is expected that the Buenos Aires delegation will propose that the height of Corpus be above the level Brazil considers reasonable and acceptable, that is, a height of between 92.5 meters and 102 meters. Although there is no official information, it was reported yesterday in Itamaraty that Argentina will propose that Corpus be between 105 and 110 meters high, which Brazil considers unacceptable.

Argentine Ambassador Oscar Camilion yesterday went to Buenos Aires to discuss with officials of San Martin Palace the strategy to be adopted by Argentina in the next tripartite talks. The ambassador will return to Brasilia next week.

Although Brazilian diplomats are prepared for the worst, Argentine diplomatic sources stated yesterday that the Argentine delegation will not submit a "hard" proposal in Asuncion.

The Argentines consider "reasonable" the height they will propose for the Corpus hydroelectric plant, but Brazilian specialists noted that what San Martin Palace considers "reasonable" may not correspond to Itamaraty's idea of what is acceptable in the negotiations to determine the hydroelectric exploitation of the Parana River.

NUCLEAR PANEL HEAD SAYS FRG WILL KEEP WORD

FY141703Y Aparecida Radio Aparecida in Portuguese 1430 GMT 13 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Hervasio Guimaraes de Carvalho, president of the National Nuclear Energy Commission, has stated that Brazil fully trusts the FRG to fulfill the nuclear cooperation agreement it signed in July [1975]. He added that the Brazilian Government should have no doubts about the supply of enriched uranium for the Angra 1 and 2 nuclear plants. [Words indistinct], Carvalho asked if anybody knew of any agreement which the FRG had signed since World War II which had been broken. [sentence indistinct]

AZEREDO OPTIMISTIC ON PARANA RIVER TALKS

FY150056Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1915 GMT 14 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Brasilia, 14 Feb--Brazilian Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira reiterated here today his optimism regarding solution of the problems which Argentina and Brazil have on construction of the hydroelectric dams on the Parana River. He admitted, however, that the next tripartite meeting (?to be held in Asuncion) could be different from the others. Azeredo la Silveira made this statement to journalists after meeting Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alberto Nogues at the international airport when he arrived on a surprise visit to discuss subjects related to the next tripartite meeting, to be held in Asuncion in early March.

The Brazilian press stated that it will be difficult to arrive at a definitive agreement during the tripartite meeting which will reconcile the Parana River hydroelectric works of Itaipu (Brazilian-Paraguayan, which is already under construction) and Corpus (programmed to be built by Argentina and Paraguay). Azeredo da Silveira noted that Brazil never excluded the possibility of a meeting between Presidents Ernesto Geisel and Jorge Rafael Videla, which he said must be negotiated. He explained that there are no official negotiations underway on a meeting between President Geisel and Paraguayan President Stroessner.

DEPUTY QUOTES FIGUEIREDO'S IDEAS ON DEMOCRACY

FY150221Y Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Feb 78 p 4 FY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Gen Joao Baptista de Figueiredo yesterday told Deputy Jose Machado (ARENA-Minas Gerais State) that he does not believe in an "essentially liberal" democracy, but instead, he believes that "every form of arbitrariness must be overcome." Machado quotes the head of the National Intelligence Service as saying: "Liberals living in Brazil should not deceive themselves into believing that Brazil can have an essentially liberal democracy. This is not possible in Brazil or elsewhere in the world."

Machado said: "General Figueiredo believes the world is moving toward a social democracy through the democratization with justice of capital and labor. Machado added: "He made clear that he is concerned over supervising foreign investments in Brazil through effective instruments and regards himself as a follower of President Geisel's democratic commitment."

MEXICAN DELEGATION TO DISCUSS AIRCRAFT PURCHASES

PY1414507 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 13 Feb 78 p 2 PY

[Text] Brasilia--The first practical result of President Ernesto Geisel's trip to Mexico will be seen tomorrow when Mexican experts, including Captain Bravo, the president of the Mexican Federation of Owners and Operators of Spray Planes, arrive tomorrow in Sao Jose dos Campos. They will discuss with Col Osires Silva, superintendent of the Brazilian Aeronautics Company [EMBRAER], purchase contracts for Ipanema Spray Planes and Bandeirante Air Transports.

This year, EMBRAER has already signed contracts whereby it sold one Bandeirante plane to Uruguay and three Xavante planes (fighters) to Togo. Other export contracts are being discussed between EMBRAER and representatives of foreign groups. There are highly favorable prospects for expanding the export of both civilian and military planes, such as the Xavante, which is made by EMBRAER under a license granted by the Italian enterprise Macchi, and the T-27, a training plane--which can also be used in antiguerrilla actions--which has already been declared a priority project by the aeronautics general staff.

The Mexican aviation officials are interested not only in purchasing Ipanema and Bandeirante planes, but also in studying a project involving the making of Brazilian planes in Mexican territory, under EMBRAER license. However, this will be the subject of further studies and no decision is likely to be made in this respect in the short term.

EMBRAER noted yesterday that the approval of the Bandeirante plane by France last December opened greater prospects for expanding the sales of Brazilian planes on the international market, not only in Latin America but also in Europe.

Only a few documents and reports should be sent to the British Government for the approval of the Bandeirante plane. Colonel Silva said yesterday that "it is almost certain that the British will approve it."

EMBRAER sold five planes to Great Britain and, in April, the British airline Air Westward will start operating with Brazilian planes. This will be the second European enterprise which will include Brazilian planes in its fleet. The first one to do so was the French airline Air Litoral last year.

Osires Silva reported that EMBRAER has received requests for information on Brazilian-made planes from Yugoslavia, Ivory Coast, Nigeria and Algeria, which are interested in their purchase. These requests "broaden the prospects for a substantial increase in EMBRAER exports this year. We also said that "EMBRAER's 1977 exports added up to $21 million in contracts, which guarantee the presence of the Brazilian planemaking industry on the international market."

According to air transport experts and Aeronautics Ministry advisers, "EMBRAER has better prospects to increase its exports this year, not only because its Bandeirantes plane has been approved by France and will soon be approved by Great Britain, but because in 1978 the international market will place more demand on pressurized planes, mainly on the Xingu model, which will have greater acceptance." Pressurized planes have been designed by EMBRAER in order to gain approval from the United States. EMBRAER considers the entry of Brazilian-made planes into the U.S. market a decisive factor for gaining acceptance in the international market at large."

EMBRAER feels that the "Brazilian aeronautics industry will have an ever more important place in the export sector, contributing to the trade surplus. Export transactions in Europe and the approval of the Bandeirantes plane in France and Great Britain are good signs in that direction."

EMBRAER superintendent Osires da Silva and commercial director Osilio Silva are holding meetings in Sao Jose dos Campos to determine the production volume for this year, which is expected to surpass 600 planes.

One of EMBRAER's main projects in 1978 is the manufacture of the military training plane T-27, and this is ahead of the AX project for the production of a tactical fighter plane.

The air force joint staff, however, considers just as important the manufacture of the fighter plane provided for in the AX project, although not as urgently as the T-27 project.

The air force high command believes that emphasis should be given to the Brazilian aeronautics industry and that the reequipment of the Brazilian Air Force should be based on planes built domestically so as to accentuate Brazil's sovereignty.

PETROBRAS NOT TO OFFER RISK CONTRACTS IN 1978

PY131745Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Feb 78 p 10 PY

[Excerpts] Rio de Janeiro--This year PETROBRAS does not expect to promote bids for oil exploration on a risk-contract basis because it considers the number of proposals in negotiation and the activity foreseen for the continental shelf, which will require constant control and supervision by the Superintendency of Exploration Contracts (SUPEX), to be sufficient.

With regard to the deposits located in the Santos Basin and at the mouth of the Amazon River, PETROBRAS is already negotiating with Esso, Pecten, Chevron, Marathon International and Amerada Hess of the United States, with AGIP, an Italian company, and with Shell, a British-Netherlands firm. Agreements should be reached by mid-April.

Drilling on the continental shelf by the firms associated with risk contracts will include the launching of three experimental wells at the end of March. This will be carried out by the Elf Aquitaine-AGIP, Shell and Esso consortium which, jointly with British Petroleum, will sign the first risk contracts with PETROBRAS.

The drilling of wells by British Petroleum, Pennzoil, Hispanoil and Esso by the end of the year is included in the second group of contracts. British Petroleum, Pennzoil and Esso will be in charge of drilling in the Santos Basin. Hispanoil and Esso will be drilling at the mouth of the Amazon.

With regard to the second call for bids, Allied Chemical Corporation, Atlantic Richfield, Citco International and Texaco of the United States, the German company DEMINEX, and the French firm TOTAL (part of Compagnie Francaise des Petroles), are yet to be summoned.

PINOCHET SAYS DIFFERENCES MINOR, ISSUES DENIALS

FY142154Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2054 GMT 14 Feb 78 FY

[Text] Punta Arenas, Chile, 14 Feb--Chilean President Augusto Pinochet said here today that current disagreements with Argentina regarding the maritime demarkation of the southern part of the continent are minor.

He explained that these disagreements can be summarized in the three points included in the act written on 19 January 1978 in Mendoza, Argentina, during his first meeting with President Jorge Rafael Videla.

The chief of state believes that these minor disagreements will not be an obstacle to meeting again with Videla, but he recognized that the meeting may be affected by the result of the meeting which will be held by military missions of the two countries in Buenos Aires tomorrow.

He denied press rumors of a personal message sent by Videla and delivered by Gen Basilio Lami Dozo last Sunday in Punta Arenas, 2,300 km south of Santiago.

General Pinochet also denied alleged direct telephone communications between the two governments, reported from Buenos Aires.

He emphasized that current negotiations exclusively refer to the demarkation of the maritime space in the southern region, excluding the Beagle Channel British arbitration decision which recognized Chilean sovereignty over the islands of Picton, Lennox and Nueva.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADORS CONFERENCE--Chilean ambassadors abroad accredited to foreign governments and international organizations will meet in Santiago from 27 February to 8 March. This meeting is held annually to brief the ambassadors on Foreign Ministry's plans for the upcoming year and to discuss the past year's accomplishments. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Feb 78 FY]

AMBASSADOR TO NETHERLANDS RETURNS--Jose Miguel Barros, Chilean ambassador to the Netherlands and representative to the arbitral court, returns to Amsterdam tomorrow. The diplomat had been attending high-level meetings in Santiago concerning the Beagle Channel and had acted as adviser to President Pinochet during his meeting with Gen Basilio Lami Dozo, secretary general of the Argentine Air Force. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Feb 78 FY]

AUTHORITIES UNCOVER TERRORIST PLOT IN BOGOTA

PA132136Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 13 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--A large terrorist plot to sabotage the 26 February elections was uncovered today by the authorities. Six urban guerrillas who tried to blow up the electronic boards [words indistinct] were arrested. An official spokesman said that last night's terrorist bombings of the political headquarters of Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Belisario Betancur in this capital were part of a Popular Liberation Army plot. Meanwhile, the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) antiterrorism section has identified the members of the guerrilla group responsible for the terrorist explosions. The authorities expect to make more arrests based on the confessions of the six guerrillas captured in the northern part of Bogota.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE BETANCUR REITERATES PLATFORM

PA141527Y Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 6 Feb 78 p 1 PA

[Text] Presidential candidate Belisario Betancur yesterday submitted to the people's consideration two important reforms. The first is for a new social security system which will enable the state to become a truly fundamental agent of the reform and, by coordinating all the elements of social action, to provide the majority of the people with the benefits of social security. The second deals with a new form of relations among capital, labor and the state, which seeks to abolish the adverse image one has of the state as a trouble-maker and to put it in a position to fulfill its obligations to the citizens, instead of causing them problems, to open new jobs and to increase production.

Appearing before the "Five Reporters and Caracol's Personality of the Week" program, Betancur answered questions regarding the present political situation. He reiterated the basic points of his government program, which he has been explaining throughout his political campaign. He also reaffirmed his decision to wage a decisive battle against inflation through a system that does not reduce the amount of money in circulation, contrary to what is being done now, money that is being used to speculate with exchange certificates, a practice with which Betancur disagrees. He asserted the nationalist character of his movement. He also reiterated that sectarianism will have no room in his government, and that he will seek the cooperation of those whose only concern is to find a solution to the serious problems the Colombian people are facing.

ENERGY MINISTER ANNOUNCES INCREASED OIL EXPLORATION

PA131704Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1507 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 13 Feb (AFP)--Mines and Energy Minister Eduardo Gaitan Duran announced today that Colombia will step up its oil exploration activities in the coming months. The minister said that an effort will be made to produce enough oil to meet local consumption demands in order to save the foreign exchange which is presently used to import fuel. At present, Colombia produces 31,000 barrels of oil a day and has calculated reserves of some 880 million barrels. Minister Gaitan Duran confirmed that exploration is presently underway at 14 sites and it is hoped that an oil strike will result. Oil explorations are being increased particularly in the jungle region of Putumayo, on the border between Colombia and Ecuador, and in the eastern plains, on the border with Venezuela. Gaitan Duran noted that meanwhile, Colombia will continue to import oil for local consumption. The government spends hefty sums to subsidize consumption. At present, a gallon of gasoline costs 12 pesos (some $0.35) domestically, while the international price is over 19 pesos.

LIBERAL PARTY NOMINATES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA121416Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2333 GMT 11 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Riobamba, Ecuador, 11 Feb (AFP)--The Ecuadorean Liberal Party [PLE] convention today nominated PLE director Francisco Huerta Montalvo as candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. Huerta, 38, called the "hippie" in political circles because of his long hair and beard, is a doctor by profession and a former mayor of Guayaquil, the country's largest city on the Pacific coast. The PLE, a centrist party, had broken away from the Constitutionalist Front, which recently nominated Quito Mayor Sixto Duran Ballen as its presidential candidate. The PLE broke away because it felt the need to run a candidate of its own, more progressive than Duran, who is supported by nine conservative and centrist parties.

During a meeting held in this city, 180 km south of Quito, Liberal activists stressed the need to run a center-leftist candidate against Duran and populist leader Asaad Bucaram. PLE youth leader Juan Carlos Guzman told AFP that his party expects to receive the support of center-leftist groups. According to observers, this entails a shift in the ideology of the PLE, which has been regarded as center-rightist until now.

The nomination of this new candidate brings to five the number of politicians who have announced their candidacy for the presidential elections scheduled for 16 July by the military triumvirate.

The other candidates besides Duran and Bucaram are Guayaquil economist Abdon Calderon, leader of the small center-leftist Radical Alfarist Front, and Rodrigo Borja, leader of the center-leftist "Democratic Left."

The leftist parties grouped in two fronts--the Broad Leftist Front and the Democratic Popular Coalition--have not yet announced who will represent them in the forthcoming elections. It is felt in political circles that the latter may contact the PLE in the next few weeks to work out a common platform. Despite the proliferation of candidacies, which is a symbol of the political dispersion existing in the country, the campaign for the elections of 16 July seemed to be headed today, according to observers, toward a confrontation between Duran and Bucaram, the two candidates who are most likely to succeed.

VELASQUIST DELEGATION TO MEET VELASCO IN BUENOS AIRES

PA150357Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2329 GMT 24 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpt] Quito, 14 Feb--A Velasquist Party delegation left for Buenos Aires today seeking to convince aged party founder, Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra, to accept the presidential candidacy for the 16 July elections. The group of politicians headed by the party's new director, Juan Carlos Faidutti, will officially inform Velasco that the movement's national convention had decided to nominate him for a sixth presidential term. The mission was described as "impossible" by political circles after the 84-year-old leader reasserted that his advanced age prevents him from returning to the electoral fray. However, his sympathizers boarded the plane to Buenos Aires today at noon in Guayaquil will open optimism, newspaper reports received here said.

OPPOSITION LEADERS INTERVIEWED ON ELECTIONS

PY1718577Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 15 PY

[Text] Several leaders of the opposition went to the ballot boxes yesterday and ABC reporters asked them to comment on the elections.

Asked about the significance of the elections in his opinion, Dr Martinez Yaryes, president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, on inserting an empty envelope in the box, said: "You (reporters) who are not facing trial in court can be sincere and describe current irregularities."

Asked why he cast a blank vote, he answered that in this manner he was showing his dissatisfaction with both the institutional and electoral process. He added: "We believed in this process before, but now we are convinced that it cannot continue like this."

On reaching the ballot box where he was supposed to cast his vote, Martinez Yaryes recognized the representative of the Liberal Party, and after greeting her he asked her why she allowed that ballots be laid on the tables, and added: "And besides, they are not the ballots of your own party." The woman answered: "But I also have the ballots of my party here," and she pulled a bundle of ballots from a nearby chair.

After voting at the National Girls School [Colegio Nacional de Ninas], Domingo Laino [former president of the Radical Liberal Party] stated: "Neither Pinochet with his pseudo-plebiscite, nor Somoza with his municipal elections, and much less Stroessner with this farce, will convince the people that these are democratic elections, nor will they convince their traditional patron, the United States, which has supported the most corrupt dictators in Latin America." He then explained that under the leadership of Jimmy Carter the United States has become the defender of human dignity.

Laino later pointed out that "for these elections, none of the candidates was chosen by a decision of the people," and warned that "this process cannot go on like this. There must be a change in the near future," he stated.

Dr Alarico Quinonez, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party, in answer to a question by an ABC reporter, stated that "the elections are being held under normal circumstances although very few people are coming to the polls." He felt that there can be no doubt about President Stroessner's victory, and pointed out that the blank vote proposed by his party has received the support of the Radicals headed by Martinez Yaryes. Quinonez also inserted an empty envelope in the box under the attentive look of all those who were present.

Dr Fulvio Hugo Celauro, Liberal Party presidential candidate, voted at the Immaculate Conception School at approximately 1100, and made some remarks for the press.

He said: "We were represented at most of the ballot boxes in the capital, and we expect to win over the Radicals in Asuncion."

After pointing out that in the interior the Liberal Party was represented at 90 percent of the ballot boxes, he said that there have been some irregularities, that some of the auditors had had problems entering the place in Villarrica, that some packages containing ballots did not arrive on time and that some documents were rejected.

Asked about the possibility of the Liberal Party's replacing the Radical Liberal Party as the first minority group, he stated: "This is a hope we have because, by the addition of Radicals who have joined us plus the problems of division within that party, we have tripled our chances to gain more votes at the elections."

Justo Pastor Benitez, president of the Radical Liberal Party, stated yesterday that the police had seized some slides which his party had prepared to be shown at the Victoria movie theater on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. According to Benitez, the slides were seized at the theater and a complaint was taken to the Interior Ministry, but no answer has been received.

Asked about the general elections, Dr Mariano Lara Castro, professor at the Catholic University, answered that they are a repetition of previous events. Regarding blank votes, he said that by casting a blank vote the citizen fulfills his legal obligation and does not give his vote to any of the candidates.

'NO COMMENT' ON POSSIBLE OAS RIGHTS VISIT

PY102025Y Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p 12 PY

[Text] "The under secretary does not have any information or comment to give," Anibal Fernandez, presidential under secretary for information and culture, said yesterday when asked about a possible visit to our country by an OAS human rights commission.

Reports from the U.S. capital indicated that steps had been taken for a visit to our country by a commission which would study alleged violations of human rights. Fernandez said he had nothing to say on this subject.

POLICE OUST HUNGER STRIKERS FROM CHURCHES

FY110112Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Feb 78 FY

[Text] The strikers who had been holding a hunger strike since a few days ago in various centers of the city have been ousted. The action was carried out by the police in accordance with an order signed by Judge (Luis Gonzalez Munoz) of the 17th court against the persons who were holding the hunger strike. The judge regarded the hunger strike as a crime.

The ousting was carried out with the knowledge of the church. Church officials were informed of the judge's decision and the results which might occur if the court order were not obeyed. Some of the hunger strikers who had health problems because of the strike were hospitalized. According to current legal statutes and the decision made by the judge, all the persons named in the charge must testify before Judge (Gonzalez Munoz) in the next few days.

GOVERNMENT INITIATES HIRING FREEZE, OTHER AUSTERITY MEASURES

PA142308Y Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 10 Feb 78 p 3 PA

[Text] The government yesterday issued a number of measures aimed at implementing a policy of strict austerity for all offices and entities of the public sector during the 1978 budget year.

For this purpose, the government has prohibited the appointment of hiring of employees and workers up to 31 December 1978. This measure also includes the creation, modification and reclassification of positions and jobs as well as reassignments with larger basic wages.

The following are exempted from this directive: chiefs of diplomatic missions, mayors and councilmen, prefects and assistant prefects, bishops and archbishops, attorney generals, superior, general and regional directors, graduates of the diplomatic academy, contracts for secigristas [student public health service workers], teaching personnel at all levels, personnel needed by the Peruvian Social Security Institute in its reorganization, promotion and advancement of personnel, and other cases which are reported in the official gazette EL PERUANO.

The government also prohibits during 1978 the purchase of office supplies, furniture and equipment, automatic data processing machines, appliances and transportation vehicles.

The government also suspended appropriations for the purchase of awards and decorations, and traveling expenses except those required for the fulfillment of diplomatic service abroad.

AP SECRETARY GENERAL ANNOUNCES REGISTRATION OF PARTY

PA142244Y Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 8 Feb 78 p 5 PA

[Text] In the forthcoming constituent assembly, Popular Action [AP] will propose the establishment of a (?provisional) civilian government that can convene general elections. AP National Secretary General Dr Javier Alva Orlandini made the announcement last night upon releasing an advance program of the party, which believes it meets the necessary conditions to participate in general elections.

After acknowledging the support of other political parties for the AP's proposal, Alva Orlandini said that his party has not anticipated an alliance, but there might be agreement with the position of other sectors in the constituent assembly.

Alva Orlandini made the statements during a news conference to announce that his party was definitively registered by the National Elections Jury. He added that none of the signatures submitted by the party in its documents was rejected. He said that some newspapers reported that AP registered with 75,000 signatures, but in reality it had done so with 206,000 signatures after new members had signed up. He added that new signatures have been collected and that as of the end of January, AP had 345,000 supporters.

In answer to newsmen's questions, Alva Orlandini stressed that although AP believes that the convening of a constituent assembly is not the most adequate solution, AP is participating in it because it is a challenge in view of AP's position as a majority party, and also in order to break with established patterns. He added that AP is participating in the constituent assembly to fulfill the people's mandate, expressed through their vote in the elections.

Dr Alva Orlandini was accompanied by Dr Oscar Trelles, member of the political committee, and Dr Javier Arias Stella, deputy national secretary. Alva Orlandini said that AP has established a national electoral committee and a selection committee for choosing representatives. He added that Fernando Belaunde Terry will head the list of candidates to the constituent assembly.

60,000 YOUTHS FAIL TO REGISTER TO VOTE

PY111352Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Feb 78 PY

[Text] It was reported last night that about 60,000 young people between 18 and 21 had failed to register at the electoral registration offices throughout the country when the deadline set by the government expired last night for participation in the 4 June elections. The total number of new voters in all Peru had been estimated at 1 million.

We repeat that about 60,000 young people have failed to register themselves and will be unable to exercise their rights as citizens. The estimate of the number of young people who have failed to sign up was made by the Peruvian Electoral Register, which also stated that about 15,000 youths had failed to register in metropolitan Lima alone. On the last registration day, only 8,000 persons appeared at the 58 electoral offices in the capital. The over 350,000 youths have signed up in Lima, while it is estimated that a little over 900,000 new voters have been registered in the whole country, most of them men.

The National Electoral Court has reported that the exact number in the metropolitan Lima districts will probably be published next week, and the figures for the rest of the country within 20-30 days.

The court said that the youths who have not been able to register for reasons beyond their control, such as strikes by municipal employees, illness, travel abroad, etc, may submit a request after the elections to the electoral register in order to normalize their situation. Those who cannot justify their failure to register in the electoral register in time, will pay a fine of 300 soles to obtain their electoral booklets.

The youths who have not registered and have no electoral booklet will not be able to get married, sign contracts, obtain work or travel inside the country or abroad.

VENEZUELA, SPAIN DISCUSS INCREASED COOPERATION

PA142253Y Caracas Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 1226 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 13 Feb (VENPRES)--Venezuelan Chief of State Carlos Andres Perez today received in his office Spanish Commerce and Tourism Minister Juan Antonio Garcia Diez, who is at the head of a large economic delegation from his country. The Spanish minister discussed several subjects with President Perez, especially the country's railroad construction plan, in which Spain is actively participating together with Canada. The important visitor heads the delegation that will participate jointly with its Venezuelan counterpart in an interministerial commission that will study the feasibility of increasing economic, technical and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

This morning the joint Spanish-Venezuelan commission held its first meeting to examine the progress of the economic agreements that had been signed during the visit of the Spanish monarchs to Venezuela, as well as the possible areas of cooperation. The meeting took place in the Foreign Ministry building at the ministerial level. Venezuelan Development Minister Dr Luis Alvarez Dominguez and Spanish Commerce and Tourism Minister Dr Garcia presided over the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Carmelo Lauria, Venezuelan minister of state for the Secretariat of the Presidency, Foreign Trade Institute President Dr Reinaldo Figueredo, the presidents of the National Institute of Shipyards and the National Institute of Railroads and by Foreign Ministry officials for the Venezuelan side.

Spain was represented attthe meeting by the Spanish ambassador to Caracas, the vice minister of commerce and other high-ranking officials of the Spanish Government who accompanied Minister Garcia. This mixed commission was created as a result of a joint communique issued in Caracas at the end of the official visit of the Spanish monarch to Venezuela last year.

CONSALVI DENIES NEW FORMULAS IN TALKS WITH COLOMBIA

PA122020Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1656 GMT 12 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 12 Feb (EFE)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi denied here today that new formulas had been devised to settle the problem of delimiting sea and subsea areas with Colombia. Consalvi's remarks refute reports received from Bogota, which quote Colombian President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen as saying that new formulas and new alternatives exist for solving the dispute with Venezuela.

Referring to those reports, the Venezuelan foreign minister said: "There is nothing new to announce on the subject because the talks are continuing at their normal rate." "However, I am concerned," Consalvi added, "about the manipulation of news by certain news agencies conerning matters which are as sensitive and delicate to Venezuela as they would be to any other country."

For his part, Venezuelan Ambassador to Colombia Guido Groscoors, who is temporarily in Caracas, said that the statements attributed to President Lopez Michelsen contrast sharply with other remarks on the same subject which the president made over television some time ago. On the occasion referred to by Ambassador Groscoors, the Colombian President said the talks with Venezuela were continuing, but that "it is not easy to conclude them because they involve a delicate and complex matter in which important and substantial interests must be conciliated."

DRUG CHARGES AGAINST TORRIJOS PROMPT PRESS REACTIONS

CRITICA Calls Charges Base

PA150213Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 14 Feb 78 p 4 PA

[Editorial: "The Resources of Felony"]

[Text] In the 3 days that the U.S. Senate debates on the Torrijos-Carter treaties have been broadcast on radio and neatly monitored here in Panama we have become fully aware of the kind of struggle that is being waged. The lowest deceits, insults and lies have been resorted to in these debates in which the opponents of the treaties have bragged about their intention to destroy them at any cost. Nonetheless, the senators favoring the treaties must be given credit for their untiring spirit of struggle. At the last session it was decided that the Senate would meet behind closed doors on 21 February to discuss the charges linking the Panamanian chief of government and some of his relatives to the drug traffic.

U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell affirmed yesterday that General Torrijos "is not now and has never been involved in drug trafficking." He also said that none of the information available at his department's narcotics control office could serve as a basis for those suspicions. Asked if he could say the same thing about General Torrijos' relatives, Bell answered that "the available information on this subject, if indeed there is any, will be studied at the secret meeting that the senators will hold for that purpose."

Several years ago when the treaty negotiations began to bog down as a result of U.S. stubbornness, a similar charge was made against Panamanian Ambassador to Spain Moises Torrijos Herrera and then Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack. On that occasion we defended our two compatriots and excellent friends on the basis of an argument that was later brilliantly expounded by Lt Col Manuel Antonio Noriega during a conference held in Bogota on drug traffic. This argument could be summed up by saying that no Panamanian government can prevent the passage of drugs through the Canal Zone, which serves as the tunnel or bridge through which they are funneled into the United States.

Today we may openly proclaim that our country is a highly efficient filter against drug traffickers. Hundreds of these criminals have already been captured at Tocumen airport thanks to the coordinated services of the National Guard's G-2 led by Lt Col Manuel Noriega, of the National Department of Investigations and of the Fiscal Vigilance Services, which are Finance Ministry agencies. Such base weapons are ineffective in countering the treaties. After the recess and once the debates are resumed, Panama's honor will be as clean as that of General Torrijos and his relatives in connection with this crime against mankind which they--as sons of educators--would never commit. Meanwhile, LSD (lysergic acid), the most harmful and dangerous of all drugs, continues to be freely manufactured in the United States.

MATUTINO Faults Senate Probe

PA150309Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 14 Feb 78 p 6-a PA

[Eduardo Valdes article: "The Question of the Government's Integrity and Credibility"]

[Text] The entire Anglo-Saxon justice system rests on the right to verify truth through cross-examination.

Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, has clearly outlined the purpose of the secret Senate session scheduled for 21 February: "I do not want anyone to have the idea that we are covering up or hiding something."

The three [as published] decisive questions:

In our article of 22 January we listed the three key questions on which the Senate debate would focus with regard to the Panama Canal treaties as follows:

1. "Does Panama have the necessary stability, capacity and integrity to undertake the obligations entailed in the new treaty?

2. Does the Panamanian cause have sufficient merit to justify a treaty like the Torrijos-Carter treaty? Does the Torrijos government have the credibility, integrity and popular support required to begin enforcing a treaty of the magnitude of the Torrijos-Carter treaty?

At that time, we added that any failure here might be fatal to the treaty.

The reason for the secret session of 21 February:

In order to fully understand the reason for a secret session as agreed to upon request from Kansas Senator Robert Dole, it is necessary to make a brief analysis of the legal provisions applicable under Anglo-Saxon law to determine the veracity of certain facts within a legal process.

Let us take a close look at the juridical reasoning invoked by Senator Dole, who as a lawyer has had a distinguished career as a tough and indefatigable district attorney and prosecutor. The senator is intimately familiar with the extreme latitude allowed by the rules on evidence to an investigator to determine the accuracy of statements, testimony or allegations.

Under the pretext of determining the degree of credibility and integrity of a witness, it is legitimate to cross-examine the witness on matters totally alien to the testimony or matter under debate. Thus, it is admissible to make collateral or indirect attacks to the following extreme points: 1) good or bad reputation as to truthfulness; 2) in-depth investigation into any immoral conduct that might be indicative of the witness' character; 3) showing that the deponent has at various times made untruthful statements; 4) the possibility that the witness has been involved in any type of criminal act; 5) existence of habits at variance with morals and good behavior. (Law of Evidence, William Payson Richardson, Section 571, p 508)

Since Senator Dole cannot directly or indirectly cross-examine the Panamanian chief of government in the Senate, he has resorted to what is known in law as supplementary evidence or, in other words, the gathering of allegations, documents, processes, depositions and testimony that bear on the five points listed above in an attempt to influence the Senate adversely.

As previously stated, the main objective is to establish the degree of credibility and integrity of General Torrijos' government.

This situation is conceivable under Anglo-Saxon law because the entire system of justice hinges on the principle that the right to cross-examine a witness is the most effective means of establishing truth. (Ibidem, p 504)

Panamanian procedural law:

As far as evidence in a process is concerned, our procedural law is based on the provision of Article 689 of the Judicial Code to the effect that: "Evidence must be limited to the matter in question; therefore, inductive [inducente] evidence, namely, that which is neither helpful nor damaging in regard to the matter under debate, is not admissible."

As for cross-examination, latitude or the explicit Anglo-Saxon form do not exist. (Article 826, Ibidem)

Our observations for the Senate:

Although it is true that Senator Dole, as an opponent to the treaty, has resorted to a maximum exercise of the right of cross-examination to undermine the credibility and integrity of General Torrijos' government and his family, it is a plain and obvious fact that, insofar as the accusations and allegations to be discussed during the secret session of 21 February are concerned, the chief of government is not being granted the basic and elementary right to be confronted with any proof or evidence against him and he cannot exercise the equally elementary right of refuting such proof or evidence.

Justice must be equal for all.

Senate Hearings Called Insult

PA150333Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Station News Director Mario Velasquez commentary]

[Text] For several years now the international news media have been obtaining information, mostly from the United States, about alleged ties between members of the Torrijos family and drug trafficking. These reports have been repeated by elements in the U.S. Congress, especially by those who first opposed the treaty negotiations and now oppose ratification of the treaties. Right now, as the Senate debate over the treaties begins, the main adversaries of ratification have once again brought forth the subject of connections between Torrijos--or some of his relatives--and drug trafficking.

The pressure exerted by those who grab these arguments to oppose ratification reached such a level last week that the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a proposal by Senator Dole to hold a secret meeting on 21 February to discuss the charges made against Torrijos on the basis of a report from the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee.

I do not want to try to defend General Torrijos and his family from the charges that have been made. My purpose is to state my indignation as a Panamanian against what I consider to be a trampling on and an insult to Panama's dignity. What each one of us thinks about the present government makes no difference. This is a matter that involves the chief of government of the Republic of Panama. For this reason, the holding of this secret session is an insult to the country because the U.S. Senate does not have the right to debate alleged criminal activities of the Panamanian chief of government, especially at a time when the Senate is debating the treaties and there is around this discussion not only a national audience but also an international audience.

It is humiliating for our country to have the U.S. Senate meet in the greatest secrecy, mystery and closed doors to be informed about a report from a Senate committee that allegedly established a tie between the family of the chief of government and drug trafficking.

I think that behind all this there is an infamous plot of U.S. proconsuls who are arrogant because of their power at a moment when they have the opportunity to do a great justice to Panama by approving treaties that are directed at the recovery by Panama of its sovereign rights over the Canal Zone and who instead tarnish the historic moment with ignoble tricks and arguments of the worst kind. Drug trafficking is one of the most infamous businesses there is. Millions of young persons waste their lives tied to that mortal vice. But the thing is that the most important traffickers are North Americans and that it is in the United States where the big bosses of this criminal business live. And it is also in the United States where most of the victims of this vice are. All this business is part of a huge and highly specialized apparatus that has tremendous economic resources and powerful influence in political, police and economic sectors in that country. On some occasions it has even been said that U.S. congressmen and politicians receive financial support from organized crime.

In the same way that we protest this secret meeting of the U.S. Senate that puts at stake the good name of the republic, we also want to state our disagreement with the silence that the Panamanian Government is maintaining in the face of this secret U.S. Senate meeting. I do not know if a public protest by Panama would jeopardize the ratification of the treaties, but if it were to be so, I think that there are moments that are worth running this risk, when what is at stake is the country's dignity.

The visits by senators who came here as consuls from an empire and as demanding inquirers who pressured and very often offended many Panamanian officials--who had to overlook much meddling from these gentlemen in the internal affairs of the country--were insulting enough.

I can recall a historic statement made by Professor Octavio Mendez Pereira. He once said: If the North Americans want to take away the canal, let them take it because we Panamanians will eat dignity. Now, in the face of this secret Senate meeting, which constitutes not only an insult to the country but also blackmail and a threat, I admire the patience and tolerance of Torrijos. However, a thought troubles me. I wonder if the price we are paying is not too high and burdensome in terms of our historic projection as a free and independent people and nation.

CANAL ZONE WORKERS' STRIKE-SLOWDOWN LOOMS

PA141926Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Local and international press recently reported that U.S. citizems employed in the Canal Zone are planning to call a strike this weekend in order to influence the U.S. Senate against the new canal treaties. Luis Anderson, secretary general of Local 907, was interviewed by Radio Libertad [domestic service] in connection with this information:

[Anderson--begin recording] We do not have concrete information on the strike but we do have unofficial reports, some obtained locally from Canal Zone sources and others from our international branch, indicating that the CMU-MTC--a metal workers central formed mostly, I would say, about 98 or 99 percent, of U.S. citizens employed by the Panama Canal Company--is planning to hold a meeting to reach a decision not for a strike, because in the Canal Zone it would be illegal and the labor union leaders would face legal action, but for an action in which the workers would be absent from work alleging illness or would simply perform their duties in a manner which would slow down operations. At present, we are holding talks and consulting with U.S. sources concerning measures which are to be implemented in the new treaties. We have submitted some counterproposals and have disagreed with some clauses, but none of these actions really makes any substantial improvement in the workers' benefits and rights. For this reason, we feel that any action taken at this moment by Canal Zone workers is political and has nothing to do with the workers' problems. [end recording]

AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA RECALLED FOR CONSULTATIONS

PA141955Y Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Feb 78 p 7-a PA

[From "Glosas Vespertianas" column]

[Text] Panamanian Ambassador to Nicaragua Carlos Manuel Boyd has been recalled to Panama to render a report on the situation in Nacaragua and the complaints of some Nicaraguan exiles.

ESCOBAR LAUDS SAMUDIO'S ABSENCE FROM CORAL GABLES

PA150241Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt said today that dignified actions such as those of David Samudio contribute greatly to the advancement and consolidation of a genuine democracy in our fatherland. Escobar, a personal adviser to the chief of government and director of the National Information Commission, released a statement in connection with the position adopted by Liberal Party President David Samudio, who abstained from traveling to Florida to discuss political problems at a time when a very important aspect of Panama's international relations--namely, the U.S. Senate's ratification of the new canal treaties--is at stake.

Following is Escobar Bethancourt's statement: The recovery of our jurisdiction over the Canal Zone and the full exercise of Panama's sovereignty over its entire territory constitute at present the true bases of our national unity. A meeting held for the apparent purpose of discussing our domestic political problems precisely in the country where the Senate is discussing the treaties really sought to distort our fatherland's image in an attempt to weaken the treaties' chances of approval. David Samudio realized this, showing once again his patriotism, his undeniable maturity as a political leader and his enormous responsibility toward the nation and the Liberal Party. In conclusion Escobar Bethancourt said: Actions such as those of David Samudio contribute greatly to the advancement and consolidation of genuine democracy in our fatherland.

NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER ON U.S.-PANAMANIAN COOPERATION

PA131912Y Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 13 Feb 78 pp 1-a, 8-a PA

[Excerpt] Now that the fourth Pana-Jungla course given in La Joya, Fort Cimarron has come to a brilliant close, our single armed institution, the National Guard, has 20 new officers who are specially trained in jungle survival and combat methods.

In effect, 20 members of the officers corps received their diplomas upon completion of the course in a ceremony attended by Col Rodrigo Garcia Ramirez [deputy commander of the Panamanian National Guard] Lt Col Armando Abel Contreras, Lt Col Pedro Carlos Ayala, Maj Bernardo Barrera, Maj Arturo Marquinez, high-ranking officers of the U.S. Army who also participated in the course, and other officers of the Panamanian National Guard.

In his speech after he had handed out the certificates, Colonel Garcia expressed his happiness and personal satisfaction in addressing a graduating class which is small in number but high in quality. He believes that the smaller the number of participants in a military training course, the greater the assimilation of instruction because it is possible to be more demanding and achieve higher individual performance.

Colonel Garcia, who expressed extreme pride over the fact that the Panamanian National Guard has already completed its fourth complete training course, the Pana-Jungla course, emphasized that members of the armed institution carry out such self-improvement efforts daily, hourly and every second in an attempt to become better soldiers every day and in order to better serve the fatherland and its sacred interests.

Looking at the U.S. officers who were present at the ceremony and who had participated in the fourth Pana-Jungla course, Colonel Garcia expressed his satisfaction with their assistance and emphasized that this joint action is the best proof we can offer the world that, as long as Panamanians and U.S. citizens share a mutual respect for each other and a reciprocal desire for sincere cooperation, we will be able to move forward together as good friends toward our common ideals and for the common good.

BELIZE

PREMIER PRICE REJECTS PUTTING OFF INDEPENDENCE

FL150156Y Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Addressing a public meeting in Belmopan last night, the premier stated that to put off the independence of Belize for another 10 years, as is being advocated in some quarters, is to play into the hands of Guatemala, for in that time, Mr Price said, Guatemala would be able to strengthen its military position and to infiltrate the Belizean cause.

The People's United Party Government has been given a mandate by the electorate in successive elections for the past 25 years to take Belize into independence. It is not a sudden move, the premier said, but one that has been going on for a long time.

Mr Price said that to give up land would be the start of grave problems, for Guatemala would change its demands to include more and more of our national territory. Let there be no confusion of our march to independence, said Mr Price. Nor should we be deceived by the opposition and Guatemala, who are working against the best interests of the Belizean people.

We have the support of international communities, the premier told the vast gathering, and working together, government and people, we shall achieve our independence with dignity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

COSTA RICA

THREE MEMBERS OF FSLN REQUEST ASYLUM

PA142004Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1659 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 14 Feb (LATIN)--Three members of the Nicaraguan Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) have asked for asylum in Costa Rica. The three took part in the attack against the military garrison in La Polvora, Rivas, Nicaragua, on 3 February after which they surrendered to Costa Rican authorities.

The Costa Rican Public Security Ministry reported that Ernesto Castillo, Freddy Yobalbarro and Moises Enriquez Ruiz asked for asylum. The affair is now in the hands of the Foreign Ministry.

Castillo surrendered at the Penas Blancas border post where he arrived by car with 40 rifles which he tried to smuggle into Costa Rica.

The three Sandinists were confined by authorities after they admitted to having participated in the attack against Rivas.

Castillo lives in Costa Rica and is a student at the National Autonomous University.

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUAN EMBASSY ATTACKED BY ERP GROUP

PA141603Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1547 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Nicaraguan Embassy in San Salvador was attacked by armed guerrillas who said they belonged to the Revolutionary People's Army (ERP). The rebels machinegunned and planted explosive devices at the embassy building in Flor Blanca district, 3 km west of downtown San Salvador.

The attack occurred at 0615 (1215 GMT), only 15 minutes after Nicaraguan Ambassador Edgar Escobar Fornos arrived.

The diplomat said that nobody had been hurt, but the building had sustained material damage. He considered the attack as a terrorist action to which ambassadors are subjected. He added that in his profession encouragement is received from friends and rejection from uncalled-for enemies.

The guerrillas left leaflets in which the ERP said the operation was a "symbolic act of repudiation against the murderous dictatorship of Anastasio Somoza and of solidarity with the fraternal people of Nicaragua, who daily have been showing their decision to overthrow the Somozist tyranny." In its message the ERP said the Nicaraguan people "are giving a shining example to the oppressed people of the world and to Latin Americans in particular."

PRESIDENT EXPECTED IN NEW ORLEANS 15 FEBRUARY

PA141852Y San Salvador Radio Cadena Y RL in Spanish 1720 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Salvadoran President Gen Carlos Humberto Romero is expected in New Orleans tomorrow to attend the 10th annual Central American conference. He will reamin in New Orleans for 3 days. He will be accompanied by an entourage which includes members of his cabinet and private businessmen interested in stepping up trade with New Orleans and in increasing cultural and sports exchanges.

This information was provided by the Salvadoran consul in New Orleans.

GUATEMALA

BELIZE PAPER REPORTS LAUGERUD REMARKS ON PRICE

FL141445Y Belize City THE REPORTER in English 12 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Corozal Town, 9 Feb--Guatemala's President Eugenio Kjell Laugerud in a radio and television broadcast tonight made a hardline speech accusing the premier of Belize, George Price, of a hidden Cuban connection. He said Guatemala would never agree to independence for Belize under these circumstances.

The Laugerud speech was picked up on Mexican television by residents here in Corozal.

Laugerud indicated that Guatemala would respect the status quo in Belize, but that any move towards independence would bring a violent response. Cuban involvement in Belize, he said, would result in a blood-bath similar to the Vietnam and the Angola experience. One thing was certain, he said. Guatemala would not stand aside and watch Belize go communist.

HONDURAS

U.S. ARMS SMUGGLER ADMITS SELLING TO SANDINISTS

PA150430Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2359 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--After being arrested here by the Honduran Interpol, a U.S. citizen who for 10 years had smuggled arms from his country to Central America admitted having sold war material to Nicaragua's Sandinist National Liberation Front. The American was arrested last week, but the arrest was not revealed until today.

According to Lyman Arthur Mason, who posed in this capital as an evangelical preacher, the arms sales to the Sandinist guerrillas were always conducted on the common border between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, never in Honduras.

Mason also admitted to having carried out other illegal activities in Central America through contacts in the area whose names have not been disclosed by the Honduran authorities. Nonetheless, they have already alerted their counterparts in other Central American countries.

NICARAGUA

EXTRADITION OF ACCUSED U.S. NATIONAL TO BE SOUGHT

PA151407Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Nicaragua will ask for the extradition of Pedro Ramos, a U.S. national of Cuban origin who is charged with hiring the killers of newsman Pedro Joaquin Chamorro last month. Judge Guillermo Rivas Cuadra said he will request the Foreign Ministry to ask the U.S. Government to extradite Ramos.

Chamorro was ambushed and killed on 10 January, and some days afterward a Nicaraguan businessman, Silvio Pena, said Ramos had hired him to arrange for the killing of the newsman. Ramos was subsequently charged with the murder together with five other Nicaraguans, including Silvio Pena.

Ramos is the owner of a Managua bloodbank in which Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza reportedly had an interest.

GUERRILLAS ATTACK BANK BRANCH IN MANAGUA

PA141928Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] A group of alleged guerrillas yesterday assaulted the Popular Credit Bank Branch in La Sabana, eastern Managua. The assailants took off with 25,000 cordobas, the bank manager reported. The police are conducting an investigation into the incident, but the results of the pursuit of the assailants have not been disclo.ed as yet.

FSLN MEMBERS TAKE ASYLUM IN COSTA RICAN EMBASSY

PA142133Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1852 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Today a professional and a university student took asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Managua. Luis Angel Marenco, an agronomy expert and veterinarian, and Ernesto Mejia Burgos, a law student from the city of Granada in eastern Nicaragua, disclosed to Costa Rican Ambassador Rafael Lopez Garrido that they are members of cells of the guerrilla organization Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN).

The Costa Rican diplomat today notified his government and the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry of the asylum requested by the two young Nicaraguans.

Meanwhile, three other asylees are waiting for their safe-conducts to leave the country. Pedro Jose Chamorro Arguello and Oscar Cortes Marenco are at the Mexican Embassy, and Jose Montemar Ubeda Herrera is at the Venezuelan Embassy. They believe that their lives are in danger because of their clandestine activities in the FSLN.

NOVEDADES REPORTS LIFTING OF OIL BOYCOTT

PA150420Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2337 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] Managua, Feb 14 (AFP)--The official newspaper NOVEDADES today announced that the boycott by Venezuelan workers to prevent the shipment of oil to Nicaragua has been lifted.

The newspaper published photographs of the Liberian tanker Esso Everett unloading 255,000 barrels of crude oil at Puerto Somoza, a private port of the presidential family located on the Pacific coast 90 km southeast of here. The daily did not mention the ship's port of origin, but said that it was chartered by Esso Standard Oil.

For its part, the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA reported that propane gas for home consumption continues to be scarce throughout the country and that the only refinery in Nicaragua, owned by Esso, is still paralyzed, apparently due to sabotage.

Official sources said that the tense situation in Nicaragua following the assassination of journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro is now returning to normal. However, the opposition insists that the resistance movement against President Anastasio Somoza's government persists.

It has been learned that several violent incidents and arrests have taken place, including the detention of Spanish priest Luis Urriaran Lopez. The priest, who was released a few hours after his arrest together with two U.S. nuns, Mothers Patricia and Julia, said that the army had fired at the facade and belfry of the church in the town of Tola.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION RETURNS FAVOR LIBERALS

PA141932Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal has reported that the Nationalist Liberal Party received 91,300 votes while the Conservative Party received 7,800 votes during the municipal elections held on 5 February in Zelaya Department. A count has been made of the votes cast in 220 districts. Another department reporting a majority vote for the Liberal Party is Matagalpa, with the Liberal Party receiving 58,463 votes. The Conservative Party received only 16 votes there.

In Chinandega the Liberal Party received 71,600 votes and the Conservative Party 2,500 votes. In Leon the Liberal Party received 42,690 votes and the Conservative ticket 2,412. Boaco Department reported the smallest voter turnout. There were 77 polling booths there, and the Liberal Party drew a total of 12,630 votes and the Conservative Party 738.

SENATE REJECTS MOTION TO INVESTIGATE MERCENARIES

PA150427Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0045 GMT 15 Feb 78 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 14 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The motion that the Senate investigate the alleged contracting of mercenaries to serve in the Nicaraguan Army has been flatly rejected. Conservative Senator Eduardo Conrado Vado today introduced a motion demanding that the Senate summon Defense Minister Maj Gen Guillermo Noguera [as received] to question him on the mercenaries issue. According to Conrado Vado, he had learned "that a group of U.S.-naturalized Korean and Cuban mercenaries is here in Nicaragua under contract with the executive branch."

Senators of the Liberal majority rejected Conrado Vado's motion, pointing out that the charges were false.

PARAGUAYAN CP DELEGATION SEES FIDEL, VISITS ISLE OF PINES

Talks With Castro

FL141205Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, has held talks with Antonio Maidana, secretary general of the Paraguayan Communist Party, and that political organization's Central Committee members Alfredo Alcorta and Julio Rojas. During the fraternal talks, the Paraguayan leaders explained the difficult situation being endured by their country under the tyrannical regime of Alfredo Stroessner. They also referred to the system of persecution and torture reigning in Paraguay, of which they are living and courageous examples by having endured more than 19 years of imprisonment.

Maidana, Alcorta and Rojas are visiting Cuba at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. Participating in the talks held by Fidel with the Paraguayan communist leaders were PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and PCC Central Committee member Manuel Pineiro.

Isle of Pines Trip

FL142109Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2032 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Excerpt] The Paraguayan Communist Party delegation headed by Antonio Maidana, accompanied by Jose Ramirez Cruz, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the National Association of Small Farmers, has arrived at Nueva Gerona Airport on the Isle of Pines. They were welcomed by Arturo Lince Gonzalez, Central Committee member and special municipality party first secretary, and Roberto Ogando from the party municipal bureau and Isle of Pines People's Government Assembly president.

HUMAN RIGHTS DRAFT RESOLUTION APPROVED AT UN

FL150042Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The UN human rights committee today approved a draft presented by Cuba on peoples' rights to self-determination and against colonial domination or foreign occupation. The United States, the United Kingdom and France voted against the document, which was approved by the majority. The resolution reaffirms peoples' legitimate right to struggle for independence, territorial integrity and liberation from colonial or foreign domination, using all means at their disposal, including armed struggle. It also condemns the practice of using mercenaries against national liberation movements and sovereign states and asks all countries to declare recruiting, financing and training of mercenaries as punishable crimes.

GRANMA EDITORIAL NOTES U.S. REPRISALS AGAINST MEXICO

PA141959Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Feb 78 PA

[Text] The Cuban newspaper GRANMA today carries an editorial on the pressure exerted by the U.S. Government against Mexico in reprisal for Mexico's refusal to reduce its oil price. Among the measures taken by the U.S. Government are the suspension of negotiations for the construction of a gas pipeline, a delay in reaching an agreement regarding the situation of Mexican workers who have entered the United States illegally and holding back Mexican uranium enriched in the United States, GRANMA says.

Quoting official sources, GRANMA says the Mexican Government is not afraid of U.S. economic reprisals or political pressure. It says that Mexico's position is that the problem will be solved when President Carter's government and the oil companies agree to pay the price for its oil.

ETHIOPIAN REJECTION OF U.S. CEASE-FIRE PROPOSAL REPORTED

FL141130Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Ethiopian newspapers have rejected the North American position on a possible negotiation in the war of aggression being conducted by Somalia against that country. The proposal is based on a cease-fire in the Ogaden region and the withdrawal of technical assistance to Ethiopia. Perhaps the North American secretary of state, the Ethiopian HERALD indicates, has deliberately altered the sequence of priorities in the Ogaden situation by calling for a cease-fire agreement, negotiation and the subsequent withdrawal of Somali troops.

The newspaper states: The future of the Ogaden is not negotiable. Physicians and advisers from friendly socialist countries who are here at the request of the Ethiopian Government to help accomplish defensive and development efforts are something inherent to the prerogatives of this nation.

The HERALD editorial, which terms the U.S. proposals sinister pretensions, was widely disseminated in other information media of Addis Ababa.

Ogaden Cities Recaptured

FL150237Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 15 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Harar, Ethiopia--A dispatch from this city states that today the cities of Harar and Dire Dawa, the largest of the Ogaden region, located 500 km east of Addis Ababa, are no longer under Somali seige. It stresses that on the Ethiopian front to the southwest of Harar, one can see the advance made by the regular units and people's militia, which in the course of the defensive actions, have achieved important successes.

In the capital of this region the chief of the Ethiopian forces eastern sector, who was briefing newsmen from around the world on the military situation in the Ogaden, stated that 70 percent of Hararge Province still remains under Somali occupation. The Ethiopian military chief stated that the recent actions of his forces began as a defensive action on all fronts in the region in the face of a general Somali attack and that the campaign would go forward until all territories occupied by Somalia have been liberated.

Military documents and plans were exhibited today in Harar, among them maps signed by the commander of the Somali forces in the Dire Dawa area, in addition to enormous quantities of arms abandoned by or captured from the Mogadiscio government. According to estimates revealed today, the Ogaden aggression has caused losses to the economy of this semidesert region of close to $800 million. It was also stated that the Somali invasion has caused the displacement of close to 12,000 persons.

The Ethiopian military chief of the eastern sector stressed the illegal and reactionary character of the war against Ethiopian territories and stated that Somali expansionist ambitions cover more than 384,000 square km, more than one-fourth of the total Ethiopian area. The chief of the eastern front also pointed out the solidarity and generous aid given by the socialist camp to the Ethiopian people. Also, the Ethiopian position that negotiations cannot take place until all Somali invading forces have been withdrawn from Ethiopian territory was reaffirmed. The leaders of the Ethiopian eastern front condemned North American, reactionary Arab and NATO member countries' meddling in the East Africa crisis.

NETO REITERATES ANGOLA'S RESPONSIBILITIES TO NEIGHBORS

FL141745Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1702 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Angola has reaffirmed its internationalist cooperation in a statement at the people's palace made by President Agostinho Neto on the occasion of the designation of that country's first ambassador to the Soviet Union. Carlos Fernandes, former minister of agriculture of the Angolan Government, was designated to that post and will also temporarily represent his country before other European socialist countries.

The Angolan president explained in his speech that Angola has a geographic, historic and revolutionary position which not only makes it feel responsible for building socialism in the country but also for aiding other peoples who might need it. The close relations between the People's Republic of Angola and the Soviet Union were pointed out by Agostinho Neto, who also stressed that his country will advance firmly and resolutely toward socialism.

Agostinho Neto also referred to Zaire's and Namibia's need to use Angolan territory and its ports in their foreign trade. The Angolan chief of state explained Angola's responsibilities in support of Namibia, Zimbabwe, the People's Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe and other African countries. In closing Neto recalled that Angola's internationalist position is the result of its friendly relations with the Soviet Union, Cuba and other countries building socialism.

Another announcement made at the event was the designation of Adriano Sebastiao as ambassador to Portugal. The new ambassador will be departing for Lisbon soon.

POLISARIO FRONT DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

FL142256Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] The POLISARIO Front delegation headed by Bachir Mustafa Sayed, deputy secretary general of this organization, yesterday left our country following a visit at the invitation of the PCC Central Committee. The delegation was seen off at Jose Marti International Airport by PCC Politburo Member Pedro Miret. The delegation, which included Ahmed Bujari, M'Boirik Ahmed and Beiruk Salah, arrived in Cuba last Wednesday.

AGREEMENT ON PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNED BY POLAND

FL141235Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] In Havana the Cuban and Polish health ministries have signed an agreement dealing with several aspects of public health. The agreement provides for an exchange of information in the field of health between the two ministries, exchange of study and scholarship delegations for 20-week periods every year, and other important aspects of that branch. Signing for the Cuban side was Public Health Minister Jose A. Gutierrez Muniz and for the Polish side that country's health minister, Marian Sliwinski.

RODRIGUEZ LLOMPART, ADMINISTRATION WORKERS SIGN PACT

FL141345Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Hector Rodriguez Llompart, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister-chairman of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and Mario Machin, secretary general of the Public Administration Workers Trade Union, have signed in Havana the guidelines of the collective work agreements for 1978. The two leaders referred to the importance in determining rights and duties of both the trade union and the committee with the aim of further strengthening the working ties between the two.

NEW DECREE-LAW DEALING WITH DRUGS EXPLAINED

FL141555Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Severe sentences ranging from 7 to 15 years will be handed out by the courts to those who, without authorization, produce, transport, traffic in, hold in their possession, or approach others in order to sell relatively large volumes of marihuana or any other toxic drug, hallucinogenic substance or a substance having similar effects. These sentences will be handed out as a result of the modification of the social defense code introduced by decree-law No 13, which was recently promulgated by the Council of State.

When large volumes of said toxic substances are obtained through cultivation, an additional sanction of confiscation of the land--in cases in which the cultivator is the owner of the land, profits from it or occupies it for any legal reason--will also be imposed. In cases in which the volume of marihuana or other toxic or hallucinogenic substance produced, transported, trafficked in, cultivated or simply held in possession is not relatively large, the sanction to be imposed will be between 3 and 8 years imprisonment.

ROBERTO VEIGA ADDRESSES CTC SEMINAR SESSION

FL141250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Roberto Veiga, member of the PCC Central Committee and secretary general of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC], has made a speech at a CTC seminar on current labor legislation dealing with seniority, traditional wages and available personnel.

The meeting was attended by secretaries for labor organization and social affairs from all provinces and the special municipality of the Isle of Pines. The opening remarks of the seminar were made by CTC Second Secretary Agapito Figueroa, who urged all trade union cadres to deepen their knowledge of current labor legislation.

For his part, CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga referred to the emergence of resolutions on evaluations and seniority and the law opposing the creation of new traditional wages.

BRIEFS

SPANISH DELEGATION--A Spanish Socialist Workers Party delegation consisting of architects (Manuel Ayuyon) and (Gonzalo Navarro), members of the party's Central Committee, has visited the Victoria de Giron citrus enterprise in Jaquey Grande, Matanzas Province. They were briefed on the history of the citrus project, its development and prospects. They also visited the offices of the PCC municipal committee where they were received by First Secretary Juan Montero. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL]

ELENA GIL'S RETURN--Elena Gil, president of the Movement for Peace and Sovereignty of Peoples, who headed the Cuban delegation that participated in the Latin American and Caribbean conference for peace and sovereignty held in Mexico City from 1 to 4 February, has returned to our country from Mexico. [Text] [Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 14 Feb 78 FL]

BARBADOS

FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER: SUGAR TALKS WILL BE TOUGH

FL141510Y Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Barbados' Minister of External Trade Mr. Bernard St. John has predicted tough bargaining when the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) sugar producers meet this year to negotiate a new sugar price.

Mr. St. John said that the grouping had already informed the European Economic Community (EEC) of a 10 per cent increase in production costs, due mainly to materials bought from the European countries.

According to Mr. St. John, the EEC on the other hand, has recommended an increase of 1.7 percent in the price of all agricultural products, including sugar.

The minister made the disclosures yesterday, following his trip to Europe where he met officials of the ACP countries to discuss strategy for this years' sugar negotiations to be held not later than July.

Mr. St. John said that the ACP countries would bring documentation to show that producers of beet sugar had been given increases over the years, far in excess of the increases given for sugar cane.

But the minister noted that the EEC producers had already started a campaign against the imported sugar cane, and this new attack was coming mainly from France.

He observed that the French election was also due later this year, and he did not know if this attack was political.

The meeting, which Mr. St. John attended, also had representatives from other Caribbean states including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and St. Kitts.

He said that in view of the public relations campaign mounted by the EEC countries through the mass media, the ACP countries had also taken action to set up public relations machinery to counteract this move.

Mr. St. John said that it was decided that a committee of ambassadors would be appointed to undertake a public relations drive, and they would be advised by public relations experts whom the ACP grouping would hire.

Mr. St. John said that the ACP countries could not regard the forthcoming talks as "straight negotiations."

He said that there was need for the grouping to do "a complete public relations campaign" to support its position.

The minister pointed out that the grouping was going to explain the amount of employment which was generated by the sugar industry, and the impact which the industry had on the gross national products of the countries.

JAMAICA

CUBAN NURSES RECALLED FOLLOWING PROTEST

FL102100Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 9 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Two Cuban nurses, who were a part of a team of Cuban medical personnel at the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital, returned home by air yesterday after being recalled by the Cuban health minister who visited Jamaica recently.

The nurses were recalled in the wake of a protest from the Nurses' Association of Jamaica which had said that their Cuban counterparts should not be allowed to register to work in Jamaica until the local association had been allowed to observe the Cuban nursing system.

A team from the Nursing Council of Jamaica is to visit Cuba to assess the system of education and practice of nursing in that country.

This decision was taken following a meeting between the Nurses Association of Jamaica and the Jamaican Health Minister Dr. Douglas Manley, and other ministry officials with regard to the service of Cuban nurses in Jamaica.

The Nurses' Association of Jamaica at a meeting on January 21 had called on the health minister to "take immediate steps" to terminate the "illegal practice" of Cuban nurses at the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital, Westomoreland.

Cuban Ambassador Ramon Pez Ferro has reportedly said that the programme of Cuban medical assistance to Jamaica is to be reviewed as it relates to the assignment of Cuban nurses to work in Jamaica.

Cuban assistance in the medical personnel field has been a matter of controversy following a STAR expose on the Savanna-La-Mar Hospital where they were stationed in the latter part of last year.

OIL TRACE FOUND IN WINDSOR AREA OF ST. ANN

FL061940Y Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Feb 78 p 1 FL

[Text] Petroleum engineers drilling for oil in the Windsor area of St. Ann have discovered an oil show at a depth of 130 feet.

The Commissioner of Mines, Dr. Raymond Wright told the GLEANER yesterday that tests were now being carried out to determine the origin and nature of the crude which has been found.

He pointed out that there was a lot of difference between an oil show and an oil find and he said that an oil show, which is what was uncovered in St. Ann, was enough evidence to be "encouraging."

"The oil show is an indication that oil was being generated in the area," Dr. Wright said.

He said that the oil show was discovered in fractured volcanic sandstone which means that it was seeping in from elsewhere.

It was impossible to say whether the show was of commercial value until further tests were carried out, Dr. Wright said.

In the meantime further drillings were started at Gray's Inn, St. Mary, where last year a team of water engineers from the Ministry of Agreculture found a source of methane gas.

These further tests are being carried out to see if there is oil in the area or whether the methane find is of commercial value.

The methane seepage from the 120-ft hole has subsided since last year but the hole has since been capped, Dr. Wright said.

Tests are also to begin offshore in the Pedro Banks area on April 1, an area reported to hold the greatest potential for an oil find in Jamaica.

According to Dr. Wright the seismic geo-physical study which will be conducted by the Norwegian Geo-physical Company, GECO, will test some 3,900 km of lines over the Pedro Banks area.

These lines which are drawn over areas with the appropriate geological profile will be sounded with energy pulses from a specially equipped ship and when these pulses are reflected back to the ship, scientists are able to determine whether there is a possibility of finding oil in the area.

Some $1.4 million US will be spend on geophysical exploration in the area. This money was provided by a grant from the Norwegian Government.

NORWAY TO EXPLORE JAMAICAN CONTINENTAL SHELF FOR OIL

FL101644Y Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Feb 78 FL

[Text] Norway has approved a plan for financing seismic studies to map oil and gas potentials on Jamaica's continental shelf. Information to this effect was broadcast today by the CANA news agency. The report said that a Norwegian Government statement issued in Oslo disclosed that the seismic study will be undertaken by a Norwegian firm called (GECO). The project originally estimated to cost little over a million dollars is now considered to be bigger than expected. Therefore, the Norwegian Government has proposed to its parliament that the estimates of cost be increased to just over $1.5 million. Yesterday Prime Minister Manley had a talk with Norwegian Prime Minister Odvar Nordli before leaving West Germany. [as heard] Mr Manley is currently on a three-nation European tour.

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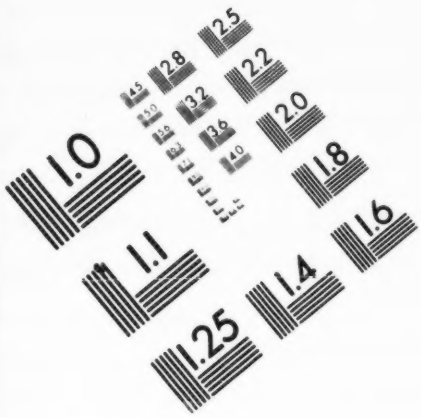

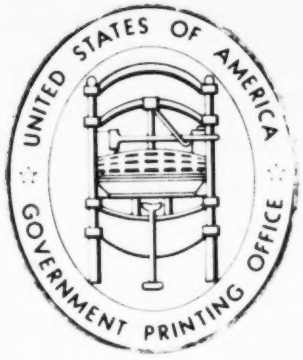

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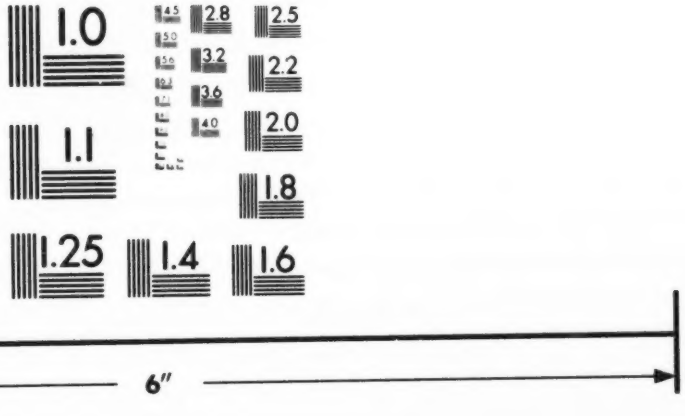

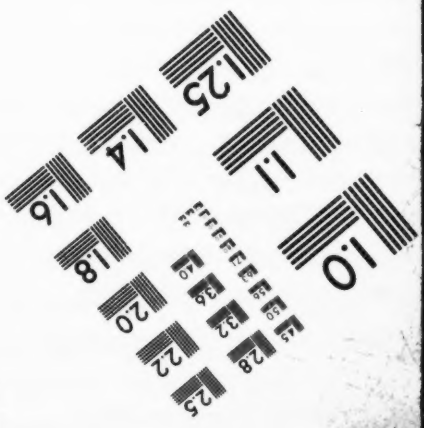

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